



FEBRUARY 2025

NON-PRODUCERS OR PRIMARY PROCESSORS

CERTIFICATION GUIDE



S U S T A I N A B L E F I B R E A L L I A N C E

CERTIFICATION GUIDE

WHAT IS THE SFA?

The Sustainable Fibre Alliance (SFA) is a non-profit standard holding organisation. We represent a global alliance of supply chain actors, stakeholders and industry experts with a mission to ensure the long-term viability of the cashmere sector. Through our work, the SFA aims to minimise the environmental impact of cashmere, safeguard livelihoods and ensure high animal welfare standards. We work with the end-to-end supply chain, connecting livestock herders to brands and retailers in the global fashion industry.

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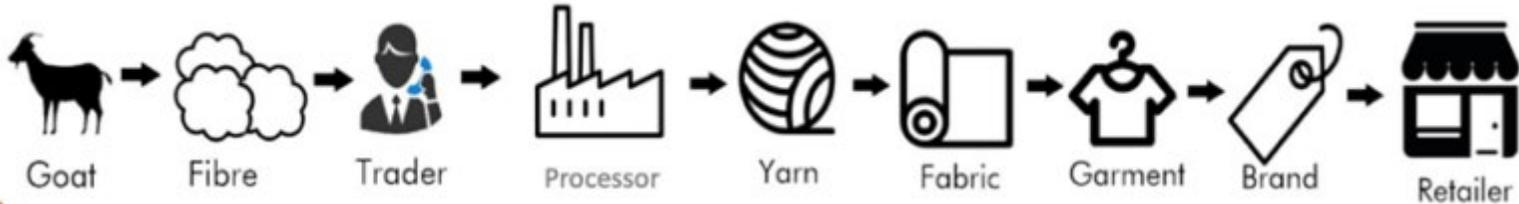




WHAT IS THE SFA CHAIN OF CUSTODY STANDARD?

'SFA-Certified' fibre is the fibre that has been produced and processed in accordance with the SFA Animal Fibre Standard and the SFA Clean Fibre Processing Standard. The SFA Chain of Custody Standard defines the rules for tracking fibre from certified herder organisations along the supply chain, allowing SFA Members to make credible claims about the content of certified cashmere in their products and to use the 'SFA-Certified' logo.

HOW IT WORKS



1
All entities wishing to participate are certified against the SFA Chain of Custody Standard and registered on our online tracking system.

2
Buyers and sellers agree on the details of their transactions as records on the online tracking system.

3
This transaction is verified by the tracking system and the details are audited by a conformity assessment body (CAB) within a month.

4
Buyers can process and sell their purchases immediately but do so at their own risk that the transaction may be rejected by the CAB.

5
Buyers of verified 'SFA-Certified' products can make allowed 'SFA-Certified' claims about their operations and products.

BENEFITS OF CERTIFICATION/MEMBERSHIP

1. Links to fibre buyers and seller

Manufacturers and traders who become Members of the SFA or a Chain of Custody participants qualify for inclusion in cashmere-connect.com. The platform serves as a hub where Members can establish visibility among certified primary processors, as well as interact with other SFA Members and Chain of Custody participants. It provides comprehensive business contact information of primary processors, and some processors may even disclose the quantity of raw fibre they have in stock. By upholding SFA's codes of conduct, Cashmere-Connect fosters trust and facilitates equitable transactions between buyers and sellers.

2. Increased value through SFA Chain of Custody

To meet the growing consumer expectations for transparency and sustainably produced goods, the SFA has published a Chain of Custody Standard. This allows primary processors to validate their fibres as those originating from certified sources and attain greater value. Buyers along the supply chain can also trace the certified status of their purchases through our digital traceability platform.

3. Input into SFA Standards

The SFA currently provides three Standards for the production, processing and trade of 'SFA-Certified' fibre. Throughout the development and ongoing evaluation of these Standards, we actively seek feedback from manufacturers and traders who are indirectly impacted by their implementation. This feedback serves to identify areas where adjustments may be necessary to align with international standards or where our Standards could be broadened, combined, split for greater flexibility, or become more general or specific.

4. Invitations to SFA events

The SFA organises several events for its Members, including quarterly meetings and annual conferences. Manufacturers and traders are given the opportunity to actively participate in SFA conferences by delivering speeches, presentations and sharing valuable insights on different topics.



BENEFITS OF CERTIFICATION/MEMBERSHIP

5. Input into the SFA's strategic priorities and operations

The wide range of manufacturers and traders associated with the SFA plays a vital role in influencing the organisation's priorities, identifying areas of improvement, addressing overlooked aspects of the cashmere supply chain, and engaging in discussions regarding new materials and regions. This involvement extends to providing valuable input in the development of SFA's Chain of Custody.

6. Sponsorship of work programmes and CSR projects

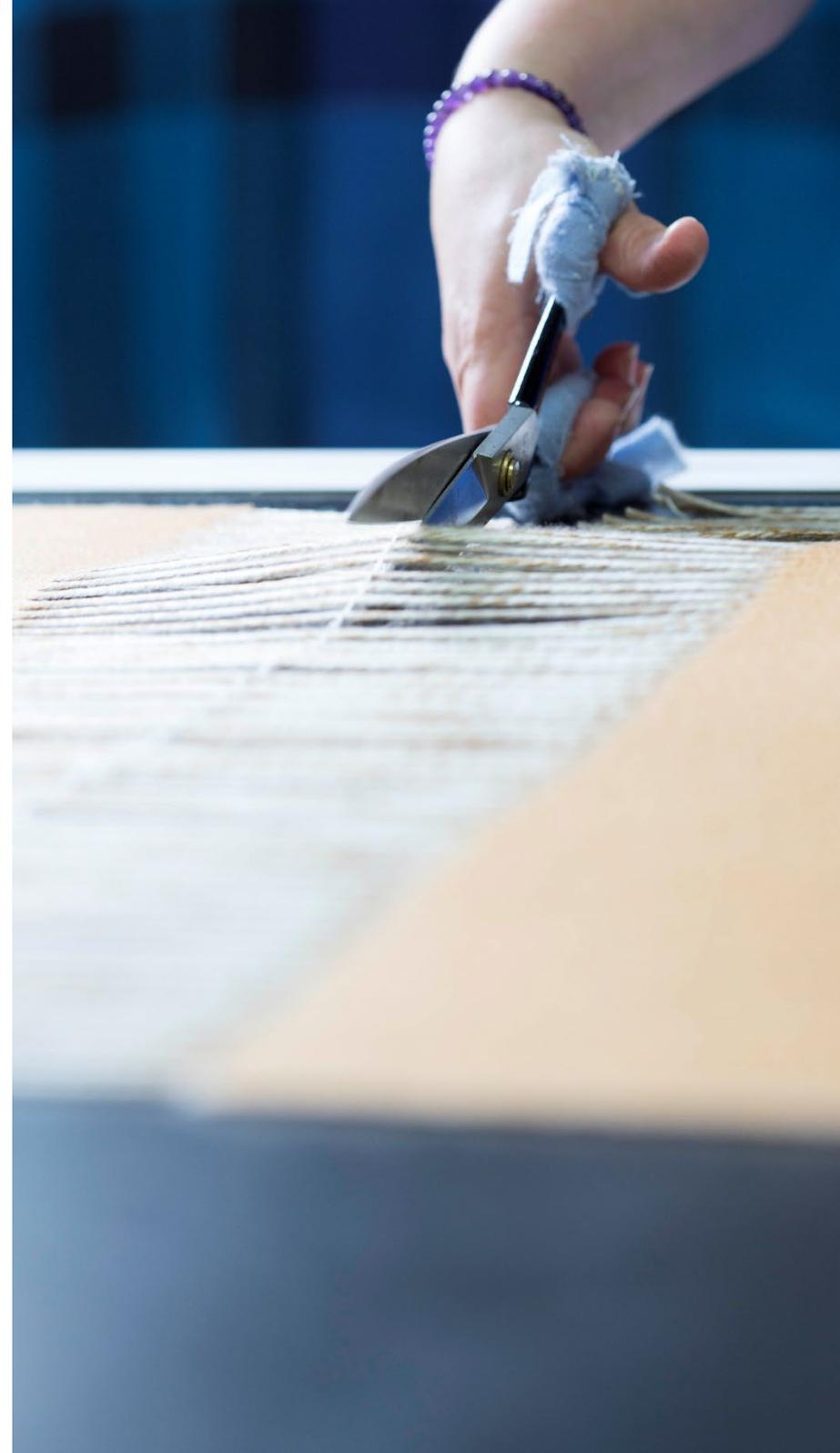
Members are encouraged to propose and sponsor individual work programs or CSR projects that align with their corporate values and objectives. They have the option to approach the SFA with their own ideas, whether or not they have a specific target area or recipient in mind. Alternatively, they can express their support for an existing program or project managed by the SFA. These programs and projects can be tailored to the sponsor's preferences and then opened to others for contributions. The SFA's involvement includes assessing resource requirements and costs, leveraging in-country expertise to design customised approaches, and identifying suitable local partners. Additionally, the SFA can assist in soliciting feedback, documenting implementation, progress, and outcomes, as well as reporting short-term and long-term impacts.

7. Improve the transparency of your supply chain

The SFA Chain of Custody means that 'SFA-Certified' fibre can be traced from the final garment back to its region of origin. As participants in the Chain of Custody, manufacturers and traders can have confidence in their products and suppliers.

8. Support in communications and marketing

The SFA provides support and guidance to Members, participation in the Chain of Custody, and the accuracy of claims around 'SFA-Certified' fibres. Members can access research, case studies, testimonials, pictures, videos, and other valuable resources.



GET CERTIFIED

To unlock these benefits your company or organisation will need to be certified against the SFA Clean Fibre Processing Standard. It will also need to be certified against the SFA Chain of Custody Standard, which ensures that your operations know how to securely keep and trade 'SFA-Certified' fibre in a way that your potential customers will trust and recognise.

- 1. Register with the SFA and consider becoming a Member.**
Membership in the SFA unlocks a range of supporting benefits provided by the SFA. Registration with the SFA is a prerequisite for certification against any of the SFA Standards for the production, processing and/or trade of 'SFA-Certified' fibre. Registering with the SFA will generate a unique reference number for your company. To get started, email membership@sustainablefibre.org.
- 2. Find a conformity assessment body**
Conformity Assessment Bodies (CABs) are independent third parties accredited to carry out certification and other activities related to the assurance of certification schemes. The list of CABs approved to conduct certification activities for the SFA Chain of Custody can be found here: [Sustainable Fibre Alliance - Conformity Assessment Bodies](#).
- 3. Complete an assessment and if successful become certified**
Your chosen CAB will be able to provide more information on the certification process including how long it takes and cost.

